GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2865
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2015
Payment of Wages through Banks under MGNREGS
Kaswan Shri Rahul;Yellaiah Shri Nandi

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are being paid wages through post offices and banks;

(b) if so, the details of wages paid through post offices and banks, during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether there are a large number of complaints with regard to corruption in the payment made through post offices and banks as well as burning/theft of records in the country including Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a)&(b): As per para 30, Schedule II of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, the payment of wages, shall, unless so exempted by the Central Government, be made through the savings accounts of the workers in the relevant Banks or Post Offices.

As per Programme Management Information System, State-UT wise details of wages disbursed to MGNREGA workers through Banks and Post Offices under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme during the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): The Ministry, under MGNREGA receives a number of complaints of irregularities including corruption in the payment made through post offices and banks etc. from many States/UTs including Rajasthan. Category-wise details of complaints in States/UTs including Rajasthan are at Annexure-II.

Since the responsibility of implementation of (MGNREGA) is vested with the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law. Detailed instructions by way of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with complaints have also been issued to all States/UTs. Apart from this, for ensuring transparency and accountability at all levels of implementation of MGNREGA, the following modalities have been chalked out by the Government for making payment to beneficiaries and prevent leakages in the implementation of MGNREGA:-

(i) All payments are mandatorily done through the Bank/Post Office accounts. Business correspondents have been employed by the Banks for speedy disbursal of payments to workers after biometric authentication.

(ii) With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tampering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.

(iii) The Ministry has also initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) which directly and electronically credits the respective beneficiary accounts using the core banking system.

(iv) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal. States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

****